

## DREAM OF CENTURIES IS REALIZED AT GAMBOA WHEN DAM IS BROKEN

Free Waterway Across the Isthmus Created When President Wilson Touched Button—Possibilities Were Seen by Balboa—Story of the Panama Canal and of French and American Engineering.

New York.—For more than 400 years the vision of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama has fired the imagination of the world. Frank Parker Stockbridge writes in Popular Mechanics. The vision became a reality on October 10, 1913, when President Woodrow Wilson in the White House at Washington pressed a button which sent the electric current 2,000 miles to explode 40 tons of dynamite which blew up the last barrier to a free waterway across the Isthmus.

"Gamboa's busted!" exclaimed the president as he pressed the telegraph key. The casualness of his remark was a tribute to the engineers of the United States army, to whom the digging of the canal has been simply "another job" in the routine of their regular work and one that called for no brass bands or special ceremonies to glorify it. With the same simplicity the first vessel to pass through the famous Culebra cut, after the breaking of the Gamboa dike had let in the water, was an ordinary rowboat, while a humble but useful tugboat was the first craft of any kind to make the passage through the great Gatun locks.

While the work at Panama is still far from completed, yet the canal which the first Spanish explorers visualized is today an accomplished fact.

On September 25, 1543, Vasco Nunez de Balboa climbed the peaks of the continental divide and discovered the Pacific ocean, which he named "the South sea." From where Balboa stood

When Balboa's report of his discovery reached Spain, it was accompanied by the recommendation that a canal be immediately dug across the Isthmus. What the explorer had in mind was a sea-level canal, for, although Leonardo da Vinci, the great Italian painter-engineer, had recently invented the hydraulic lock, now generally used for lifting vessels over elevations, it had not become widely known.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 was followed by a tremendous volume of traffic between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and for fifteen years practically all of this traffic was by way of the Isthmus over the Panama railroad, opened in 1855 by Americans under a concession from the republic of New Granada, now known as Colombia. The explorations and surveys for the railroad, a work that is



First View of Canal Since Blowing Up of Gamboa Dike.

said to have cost the life of a man for every tie, led to a much more accurate knowledge of the topography and geology of the Isthmus than had previously been available. President Grant in 1869 asked congress to take up the matter of a canal. The only action was a resolution providing for an exploration by officers of the navy and the creation of a commission in 1872 to consider their reports. Then in May, 1876, the republic of Colombia granted a concession for the construction of a canal from Colon to Panama, the terminals of the Panama railroad.

In 1894 a new French company was organized and work was resumed. In 1899 the United States congress created the Isthmian canal commission to examine all practicable routes and to report which was the most practicable and feasible for a canal "under the control, management and ownership of the United States." The commission reported two alternative plans, one for a canal at Panama and the other across Nicaragua. It estimated the cost of a Panama canal at \$156,378,258 and of the Nicaragua canal at \$209,540,000. But because the route from New York to San Francisco would be several hundred miles short-

er by way of Nicaragua, and considering existing French concessions in Panama, the commission gave it as its belief that the Nicaragua route was more desirable under the circumstances. The effect of this report was to induce the French Panama company to offer its concession to the United States for \$40,000,000 in January, 1902. The Isthmian canal commission advised the purchase and congress authorized the president to buy all the property of the Panama company, including a majority of the stock of the Panama Railroad company, and to obtain from Colombia perpetual control of a strip of land six miles wide, through which to build the canal. Colombia refused to grant this



Blowing Up of Gamboa Dike.

control, but in November, 1903, ten months later, the state of Panama declared itself independent. Within a month a treaty had been negotiated with the new republic by which the United States was given control of a strip of land ten miles wide for the purpose of a canal. The French company's property was bought and in February, 1904, a commission for the construction of a canal was appointed. In May of that year work was begun where the French company had abandoned it. In June, 1905, a board of consulting engineers was appointed to consider whether the canal should be at sea level or with elevating locks.

The canal itself, from deep water to deep water, is 50 miles long. Its general direction from the Atlantic entrance to the Pacific end is from northwest to southeast, the northern terminal being about 22½ miles farther west than the southern entrance from the Pacific. The first seven miles of the canal beginning at the Atlantic end are at sea level. Five miles of channel, 500 feet wide, have been dredged to a depth of 41 feet directly south through Limon bay, and two miles of this sea-level section has been cut through low-lying land to the entrances to the Gatun locks, where the ships are raised, in three steps, to a height of 35 feet above sea level, into the great body of fresh water called Gatun lake.

### ROYAL FLUSH BRINGS DEATH

New Orleans Man Believed Slain by Man He Beat in Poker Game.

New Orleans.—With his head and the upper part of his body filled with buckshot, Capt. William Collier was found dead in his hermit's lodge. He was seated at a table and clutched in one hand was a "royal flush." Opposite him was a "full house." He had been playing poker and was evidently assassinated by the loser. The police are seeking his opponent in the game, believed to be a sugar planter.

### Barroom Fork Doomed.

New York.—The doom of the barroom fork, which stands in a glass on the free lunch counter, has been forecasted by Health Commissioner Goldwater. He declares it is deadly as a germ bearer and must go.

### Prohibits Button-Up Back Dresses.

Providence, R. I.—A bill prohibiting women from wearing dresses that button up the back has been introduced in the legislature. It would make offenders serve six months at hard labor in the kitchen.

### Youth With Two Stomachs.

Berne, Switzerland.—Doctors, using the Roentgen rays, discovered that a nineteen-year-old youth possesses two stomachs. The youth has been suffering from stomach disorders.

### Court for Mother-in-Law.

Yonkers, N. Y.—Thomas Murphy had his mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Maloney, brought to court for smashing furniture she had given him for a wedding present.

## NATIONAL CAPITAL Affairs

### Ground Broken for the Great Lincoln Memorial

WASHINGTON.—Ground was broken February 12 for the great memorial which is to be erected in Washington to Lincoln. As would have pleased the great president, the utmost simplicity marked the breaking of the ground.

The day was the one hundred and fifth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. There was no blare of trumpets, no pounding of drums and no burst of artillery salutes. The resident members of the Lincoln memorial commission, accompanied by Henry Bacon, designer of the memorial; M. F. Comer, Toledo, O., the contractor, and Col. W. W. Hart, engineer commissioner in charge of public buildings and grounds, met on the spot down on the "made" ground by the Potomac, and all removed a few spadefuls of earth, and that was all the rites there were.

Before beginning to turn the earth, former United States Senator Blackburn, who has been appointed chairman of the commission in place of the late Senator Cullom, made a short speech, opening the exercises.

"This great memorial will show that Lincoln is now regarded as the greatest of all Americans," said Senator Blackburn, "and he is so held by the South as well as by the North. Today we let the country know that this great work has been begun and will be carried on steadily until its completion."

The site is on the direct line with the monument to Washington and the capitol and within easy view of the gates of Arlington, which it is planned to connect with the memorial by a memorial bridge.

### Government Clerks Just as Selfish as Others

GOVERNMENT clerks are just as selfish as any other body of people that can be got together. They have been howling for years for a retirement law, which will make provisions for retirement at a certain age on one-half or two-thirds of their salary, and the same organization which is known as the "Retirement association" is demanding increased salaries all along the line. The pure selfishness of this United States Civil Service association shows in the fact that the clerks are unable to get together on any suggestion for retirement. Scores of the younger clerks object to the monthly assessment plan for the purpose of securing an endowment fund on which aged clerks may be retired.

Youth is always hopeful, and these younger clerks think that they will leave the government service long before the retirement age is reached, and then all the money that had been automatically taken from their monthly salaries would be lost to them. And they are strenuously opposed—these younger clerks are—to supporting in idleness any of the aged clerks, who could be immediately retired on part pay if such an endowment fund was established.

One of the finest examples of what may be accomplished without feeling any real loss of salary is shown in the United States Soldiers' home. This home, established in General Scott's time, just after the Mexican war, by an indemnity fund from Mexico, which nobody knew what to do with, is today the most magnificent piece of property in the District of Columbia. It can shelter over 5,000 men without crowding. It has magnificent white marble buildings with marble floors and walls, white marble auditorium and theater, a magnificent library building, a just as magnificent administration building, with a most beautiful cottage for the administration officials, great conservatories and herds of the very finest milch cows—in fact, everything on earth that the heart can wish for, and all done by simply reserving a small sum of 12 cents a month from every enlisted man's pay.



### Few Holidays Observed in City of Washington

BE it known that in the District of Columbia mighty few of the patriotic holidays are observed. For instance, congress sits on Memorial day, just exactly as though it were a common, ordinary day, and observes Washington's birthday by some senator reading out Washington's farewell address, while of the birthdays of McKinley and Lincoln absolutely no record is usually made. The Fourth of July, if congress is in session, and June 14 suffer the same neglect.

Secretary of War Garrison, however, taking it for granted that Lincoln's birthday would be a holiday the same as in New Jersey and New York, did not go down to his office in the war department at all, so his secretary called up Mr. Garrison's home to inquire where the secretary of war might be. Mrs. Garrison informed Mr. Garrison's secretary that her husband had gone to New York to address a meeting of the Old Colony club. "Mr. Garrison thought that he might just as well take advantage of the holiday today and make this address," added the wife of the secretary of war.

And those who have been a long time in Washington had a great laugh on Secretary Garrison when he returned to the city to be told that February 12 is not a holiday in the District of Columbia. There are a great many other things that Secretary Garrison might learn of the lack of patriotism of congress and in the District of Columbia.

### Light Gray Is Most Inconspicuous for Soldiers

WHAT color can be seen the farthest? What is the most conspicuous color? Experiments to answer these questions have been made by the war department to determine the color best suited for a soldier's uniform. The experiment proved few people realize the difference colors can make or their real relation to one another.

The ideal soldier's costume is one that soon fades into the background, and that does not show at all from a distance, making it invisible to the enemy. In order to prove the relative conspicuousness of colors, 12 soldiers were dressed in colored uniforms and ordered to march off, while a group of officers and color experts remained behind to take notes on the uniforms. Two of the 12 soldiers were clad in light gray, two in dark gray, two in green, two in dark blue, two in scarlet, and two in tan, as these are the colors most fitted for uniforms.

The first to disappear were the light gray. The next two were the tan. The next, surprising as it may seem to those who believe they know colors, were the scarlet. Then followed the dark gray, while the dark blue and green remained visible long after the other colors had disappeared.

Experiments were also made at firing at targets of various colors, with the same results. Red and blue targets were also experimented with, and it was proved that blue could be more easily seen at a distance, and hit, than could red.



First Boat Through After Gamboa Dike Was Blasted.

his new ocean lay directly south, because of the S-shaped twist of the Isthmus, which brings the Pacific entrance to the canal not only southward but eastward of the Atlantic terminal.

### SLAYER HID IN BIG PRISON

Man Wanted for Murder Allowed Himself to Be Caught in Burglary to Escape Search.

Sacramento.—A country-wide search, covering almost three years, for Otto Shaumburg, the notorious "key burglar" of St. Louis and alleged murderer of Detective James Arnold of East St. Louis, has ended in a cell at San Quentin prison. Shaumburg was identified by William J. Mulconery, sheriff of La Claire county, Illinois. The police of every city in the United States have been on the watch for Shaumburg and \$500 reward for his capture is authorized by La Claire county.

Shaumburg was betrayed by his cellmate at San Quentin, to whom he narrated the story of his criminal operations in St. Louis and East St. Louis. Sheriff Mulconery was notified and extradition papers were signed by Governor Dunn of Illinois and filed with Governor Johnson two months ago.

Sheriff Mulconery recently came to the Pacific coast to get a prisoner at McNeil's Island penitentiary and stopped over at San Quentin to identify Shaumburg, whom he had seen about East St. Louis.

"Hello, Otto," Mulconery said, and offered his hand to the convict.

"My name's not Otto," Shaumburg replied, and he pulled back his hand. "I never was back there, and I don't know you," he added.

"Back where?" queried Mulconery.

"Back where you come from," Shaumburg replied, and then wilted down when Mulconery accused him of the murder.

Shaumburg told his cellmate that after he had murdered Detective Arnold he hurried to the Pacific coast and permitted himself to be captured in the act of committing a burglary at Santa Cruz, Cal. He pleaded guilty under the name of Ray C. Jones and was sentenced to serve two years in prison. Shaumburg told his fellow convict he thought he would be safer in prison while a search for him was on than roaming around the country.